

STATE SENATOR • MICHAEL PRUSI • 38TH DISTRICT
Prusi Press Release

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**TEACHING FAMILY HOMES OF UPPER MICHIGAN
LAND TRANSFER FINALIZED**

*Family intervention center & recreation trails
will be developed on 40-acre parcel*

LANSING – Senator Prusi (D-Ishpeming) announced today that the State of Michigan has approved a quit claim deed allowing for the conveyance of a 40-acre parcel in Sands Township to Teaching Family Homes of Upper Michigan. The property will serve as the site for a new family intervention center and recreational trails.

“I was impressed with the teamwork displayed by the Governor’s Office, the Department of Management and Budget, and local county and township officials,” Prusi said. “Thanks to a concerted effort, kids under the care of Teaching Family Homes will have a place where they can find help and guidance in dealing with both crisis situations and everyday living.”

The land will be developed by Teaching Family Homes to include residential and rehabilitative services for minors and their families, facilitating self-sufficiency, self-esteem and skill development with the goal of integrating students back into their homes. The parcel will also include public access to recreational hiking and bicycling trails for the local community to enjoy.

Teaching Family Homes is a private, non-profit organization that cares for troubled children and families in crisis. During the past two decades, it has become the largest child welfare organization in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Christine Myers, CEO of Teaching Family Homes was glad to see the project move forward. “The efforts of everyone involved prove their dedication to the children of the Upper Peninsula, because of their work, the U.P. will benefit from enhanced programs for its youth for years to come.”

Senate Bill 314, introduced this spring by Sen. Mike Prusi (D-Ishpeming), was recently signed into law by Governor Jennifer Granholm as 2003 Public Act 166. The statute allowed the State Administrative Board to enter into an agreement with Marquette County to transfer the parcel to Teaching Family Homes for \$1, upon the state’s approval of the quit claim deed transfer.

“I was pleased to sign Senator Prusi’s legislation that will do much more than just transfer a piece of property in Marquette County,” Governor Granholm said. “This puts in motion a plan to help troubled children and their families receive help through the Teaching Family Homes agency. I want to thank Senator Prusi for championing this effort in the Legislature.”

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Mike Prusi serves as Democratic Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. He represents the 38th Senate District, which includes all Upper Peninsula counties west of Luce County.

ATTACHED PHOTO: *Several individuals recently visited the site...*

L to R:

Stacy Welling, Governor Granholm’s Northern Michigan Representative, Doreen Takalo, Teaching Family Homes Board of Directors Vice Chair, Earl Yelle, Sands Township Supervisor, Senator Michael Prusi, Christine Myers, CEO Teaching Family Homes.

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